



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. When will *Indiana's Academic Standards for Science* be revised?

We have begun committee meetings in Fall, 2008, with a draft expected to be available for public review August 2009. This draft will be revised based on the feedback and the revised version will be presented to the Education Roundtable and State Board of Education in early 2010. The revised standards will take effect fall 2011.

2. Where do I find information about the Core 40 requirements for Science?

Core 40 course and credit requirements for social studies and other content areas can be found at: http://www.doe.in.gov/core40/diploma_requirements.html

3. What are the Core Standards for Science? Are the Core Standards different from the Indiana Academic Standards for Science?

The Core Standards for Science are not a “second set of academic standards.” They highlight the most important concepts presented in each grade level and content area and outline a manageable number of concepts that all students must understand and be able to do at the end of the year. They emphasize the concepts that are central to each grade and are connected to subsequent grade levels and help students focus on the key concepts (the most important Standards Indicators necessary for understanding the “big ideas”) of each grade level and content area. The Core Standards inform decision-making when planning and delivering instruction and designing assessment and create more focused goals for student performance at the end of each school year.

4. Where do I find Science course descriptions and license requirements?

Science course descriptions are available at:

<http://doe.state.in.us/publications/courses.html>. Licensing requirements for science courses can be found at: <http://doe.state.in.us/dps/licensing/assignmentcode/>

5. Which students need to take the Biology I End of Course Assessment to receive credit in Biology I?

All students finishing Biology I at the time of testing (regardless of their current grade in the course) should participate in the Biology I End-of-Course Assessment.

6. Are students required to pass the Biology I End-of-Course Assessment?

This is a local decision. If schools choose to incorporate the score on the Biology I ECA into local grading, it is recommended that scores on these assessments should not be used for more than one-third of a student's grade. At this time, there are no “stakes”



Science Curriculum and Instruction Frequently Asked Questions

for students at the state level. It is anticipated that ECA scores will be recorded on a student's transcript.

7. Can students meet course requirements for graduation by taking online courses?

This is a local decision. Corporations must decide whether online courses meet or exceed the standards for a given course.

8. Which high school science courses have classroom assessments?

Classroom assessments are available for Chemistry I, Earth and Space Science I, Human Anatomy and Physiology, Integrated Chemistry/Physics, and Physics I. Contact your Corporation Test Coordinator for the Web address and a username and password to access these assessments. <http://doe.in.gov/core40/welcome.html>

9. Who can help with questions about the ISTEP+ and Core 40 ECA science tests?

Cindy Hopkins (chopkins@doe.in.gov) is the Science Assessment Specialist. There is also additional information for ISTEP+ at <http://www.doe.state.in.us/istep/welcome.html> and for Core 40 ECAs at <http://doe.state.in.us/core40eca> . Cheryl Hustedt is the End of Course Assessment Specialist (chustedt@doe.in.gov).

10. Which schools use a particular textbook?

Information on the textbooks adopted by districts is available at <http://www.doe.state.in.us/olr/textbook>.

11. Does IDOE have curriculum and instruction resources?

Curriculum and instruction resources are available at <http://www.indianastandardsresources.org/>.

12. Are there state science competitions for students?

Governor Daniels inaugurated the annual Indiana Mr. or Miss Science Award in 2008.

Learn more about science curriculum and instruction at
www.doe.state.in.us/opd/science.

